

**REMARKS**

Claims 12-16 and 20-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 15 is amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

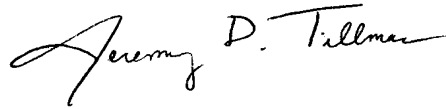
Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments merely correct a typographical error); (b) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because the typographical error being corrected was only recently recognized. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

This Amendment is being filed prior to the filing of an Appeal Brief. Substantive arguments addressing the outstanding rejections are thus deferred to the Appeal Brief. This Amendment is to reduce formalities issues in the Appeal.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 12-16 and 20-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:JDT/hs

Date: December 8, 2008

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